



Best Practice: High Power Spotting Scope



Category:	Guards and Police
Location First Observed:	Laem Chabang, Thailand
Date First Observed:	June, 2005

Description:

The Port of Laem Chabang employed an 80 power spotting scope on a tripod in an elevated office to improve their view of the entire port and approach channel.

Discussion:

A high power spotting scope in an elevated position offers several benefits over hand held binoculars. Spotting scopes of 60–100 power are 6 – 10 times more powerful than binoculars. Their large diopter lens permits more light to enter the scope, enhancing low-light viewing. Using a tripod stabilizes the scope, and greatly reduces the small movements that can blur the vision in hand held binoculars. A spotting scope is far more effective at detecting persons, vehicles, or vessels at a long distance, or at seeing detail (e.g. license plate numbers, boat numbers, suspect physical features, etc.)

Potential Down-side:

Spotting scopes need to be used on a tripod, and are difficult to carry in the field. Monocular vision reduces the ability to discern the distance of an object.

Conclusion:

For any facility that maintains an elevated position with a good view of their yards, docks, jetties, and waterways, the addition of a spotting scope can greatly enhance the ability of security officers and managers to detect security and safety threats to the facility.

Cost:

\$100 - \$800 USD, depending on quality and magnification.